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*LIMITED TO MATTERS
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December 20, 2001

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Art Unit 1652

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/621,448; Filed: July 21, 2000
For: **Methods for Producing L-Amino Acids**
Inventors: O'DONOHUE *et al.*
Our Ref: 1533.1010002/MAC/AGU

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116;
2. Copy of postcard receipt with PTO date stamp, filed on July 21, 2000;
3. Copy of Document AT3 (1 page); and
4. One (1) return postcard.

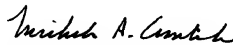
Commissioner for Patents
December 20, 2001
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It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



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MAC/AGU/jk
Enclosures